



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FARMERS JOIN GAME AGENTS IN UPHOLDING HUNTING RULES

Page the sportsmen and farmers of the country. When the season on migratory waterfowl opened in California, probably the largest body of game agents ever to assemble in and around the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge was present to catch game-law violators, and apparently everyone, including the hunters, was satisfied that a good job was done, the Fish and Wildlife Service recently reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Significance of the story, it was pointed out, is that a good part of the staff was composed of farmers living near Tule Lake. They volunteered their services and were sworn in as deputy State sheriffs. As a result, 25 violators were apprehended and convicted. The farmer-sportsmen relationship has been the Gordian knot in hunting circles, and apparently the Californians have found one way of untangling the problem.

About ten percent of the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge is open to migratory waterfowl and pheasant hunters each year, officials explained, and in past seasons some hunters going on farms adjoining the refuge had failed to respect farmers' property with the result that all sportsmen were frowned upon. This year the farmers themselves volunteered to act as deputy sheriffs to control violations

and permit the average sportsmen to enjoy hunting both on the open area of the refuge and the nearby farms.

A few days before the season on migratory waterfowl opened, the farmers were sworn in as deputy sheriffs of Modoc County. The farmers then met at the headquarters of the Tule Lake Refuge where U. S. game management agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service instructed them in the Federal game regulations.

The staff of Federal game agents and farmers was augmented by California State Fish and Game Protectors, National Park Service officials, and Forest Service rangers.

According to reports, the majority of hunters expressed satisfaction in having the large staff of enforcement officers present to "umpire" the 2,000 hunters on the area so that all the sportsmen would have an equal opportunity at the surplus game on the unrestricted area and farms.

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